

VLR-6/20/89 NRHP-11/13/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Graysontown Methodist Church
other names/site number 60-109

2. Location

street & number south of VA Rt. 613 N/A not for publication
city, town Graysontown N/A vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24141

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: nave plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof METAL: tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Graysontown Methodist Church is situated on a ridge with sloping land on three sides, in a bend of the Little River above the village of Graysontown. Although it is located on a lot in the platted town of Graysontown, its setting appears rural. From the bluff at the rear (southeast) of the church is a dramatic view across the Little River to the town of Snowville in Pulaski County (Snowville Historic District, nominated to the National Register in 1986).

The frame, weatherboarded, nave-plan church has a projecting vestibule with a central, transomed double door surmounted by a bracketed shelf. The vestibule is capped by a two-stage tower with bracketed friezes. Alternating courses of straight and offset wood shingles are used to side the tower. The pyramidal tower roof has a kicked eave, while the structure features cornerboards with caps and pointed-arch windows. A two-story, modern addition has been added to the southeast. A cornerstone at the northwest corner bears the date July 4, 1895. The interior has been altered very little in the years since the church was built, and features late nineteenth-century detailing.

8: Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1895

Significant Dates

1895

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Brother Cook, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

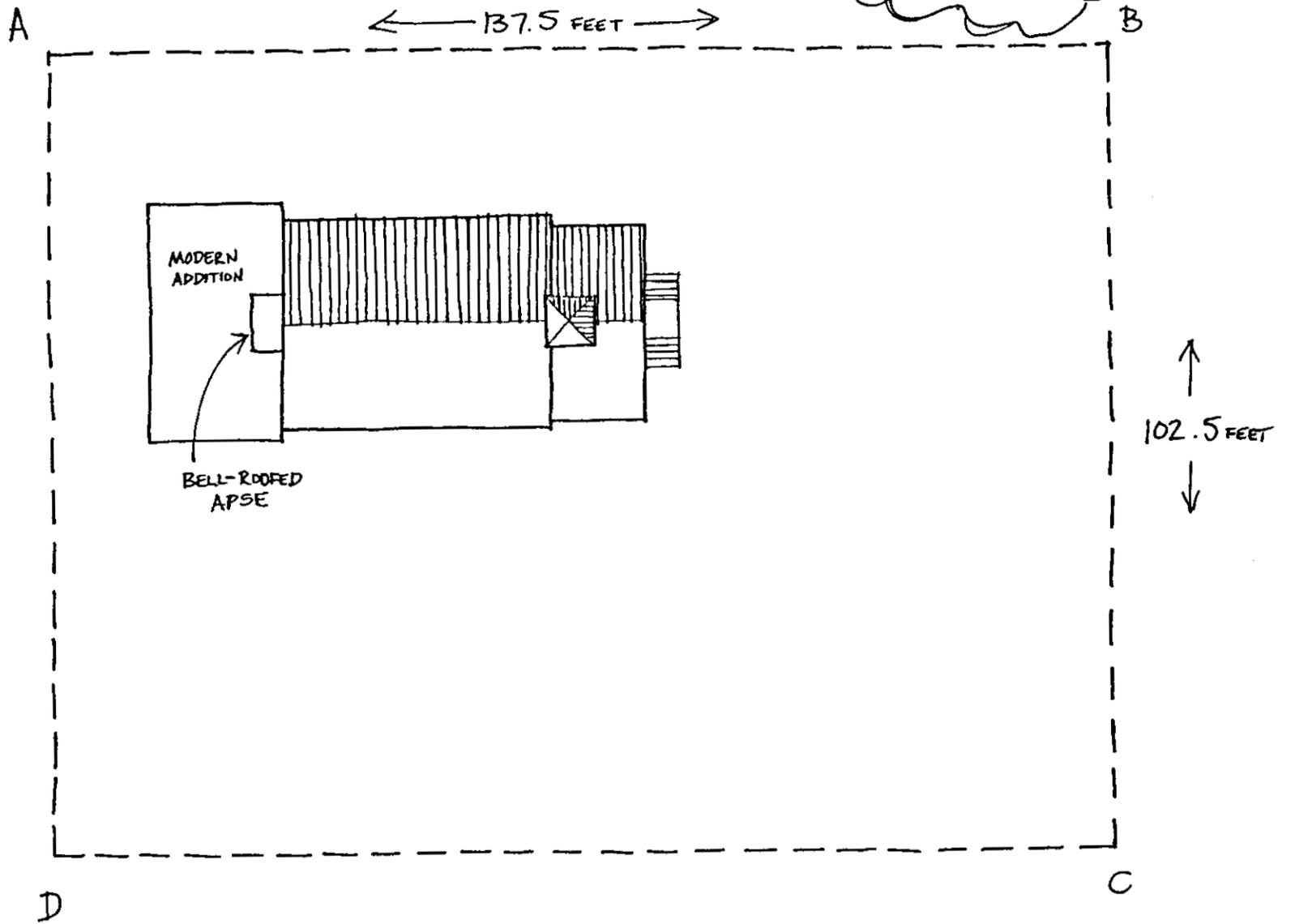
The church is significant under criterion C as an important elaborate example of a nave-plan church. There are fourteen nave-plan churches from the late nineteenth century in Montgomery County. Graysontown Methodist Church is one of only a few equipped with a tower, and in this feature it reflects the earlier Greek Revival Snowville Christian Church across the river.

The church trustees acquired the lot, which was identified as lot #41 on Second Street, from W.R. Hundley in May 1895. It is now owned by local citizens and operated as an inter-denominational church. It has always stood more or less alone on its hilltop site. The addition is inconspicuously placed to the rear of the church and does not impair the significant features of form and decorative material.

In 1894, a one-room school in Graysontown was used for worship purposes by a group of Methodists. A minister known as Brother Cook was sent to serve a group of local churches by the Methodist Conference. The church was built by Brother Cook and some of the members of the church soon after, using largely donated materials. The first Sunday school, the superintendent of which was Ed Winston, had an average attendance of about 200, and the church grew. At least 500 attended the first service. The church was called "truly a light house and soul saving station for all that attended" (Howell).

A newspaper story in 1977 detailed the church's history. In the late 1880s, local residents began discussing the establishment of a church. Officially named St. John's Methodist Church, the group organized in 1888 with twenty-four members. The building was dedicated in 1896. The church membership, while reaching around 100 at times, declined through the century, and the church was closed by the Methodist Conference in 1976. The members purchased the building from the Methodists and now use it as a nondenominational church (Shelburne, Anita). The group was headed by former Sunday School Superintendent Raymond Weeks. Weeks and the group leased the building to a religious group headed by Lee Simpkins and Max Meredith.

See continuation sheet



60-109 GRAYSONTOWN METHODIST CHURCH
 G. WORSHAM
 K. MARTIN 10/87





- BOWYER -
TROLLINGER FARM
4102 IT 543860 4102630
- (RINER) (RINER)
4958 III SW
- 4101
- CROMER HOUSE
17 542060 4100530
- JOHN GRAYSON
HOUSE
4100 17 539320 4100070
- 2'30" GRAYSON - GRAVELY
HOUSE
17 528890 4099540
- 4099 BISHOP HOUSE
17 539520 4098965
- GRAYSONTOWN
METHODIST CHURCH
17 539030 4098860
- RADFORD
SOUTH
QUAD